



# THE GARZETTE



JANUARY 1998

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## GARS 1997 HAM OF THE YEAR Kevin McClure KF4HFN



Kevin is pictured here in his 'DJ' garb. With all of the candidates for 'HOY', The GARS Officers finally choose Kevin. Kevin's devotion to the club and to the Ham community was exemplary throughout the year of 1997. Congratulations to Kevin McClure GARS well deserved Ham of the Year.

## The President's Pen

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM



It's hard to believe that we've used up another year so quickly but here we are at the start of 1998. **GARS** had a great year in 1997 and I'm looking forward to another great year coming up. We were active with a lot of events during the past year including what has to have been the best Field Day **GARS** has had in its twenty years of existence. This field day was result of past experience with Mark Kozma, KD3GC and his team building on the foundation laid down by the previous Field Day Chairmen such as Joe Biddle, AD4PZ and Vince Hrabosky, AE4CQ. Mark has agreed to remain Field Day Chairman for 1998. I know it sounds a bit early to talk about an event that doesn't occur for six months but it takes a lot of effort to put together such a successful event. Mark still has some key areas on this year's committee to fill and he'd like to hear from you.

If you missed the **GARS** Christmas party last month you really missed a good time and the chance at some great gifts. I've had nothing but positive response about the Christmas party and we'll plan to do the same sort of event at the same place next year based on that response. We gave away an Alinco DJ-S11 handle talkie, gift certificates from

Speaking of twenty years,

*Continued on page 8*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ON THE AIR	Page 2
Straight Key Night '97	Page 3
Holiday Party Pictures	Page 4
PO Box 88, QSL?	Page 5
GARS Survey	Page 7

## The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer.

**Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.**

GARZETTE Editor

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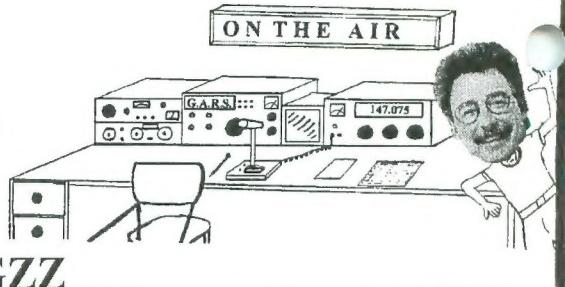
My thanks to all of them for their help in producing The GARZETTE.

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## On the Air with Johnny Fearon W4WKP by Karl Phillips, K4GZZ



Last month, while posing as "Santa Karl," I began making a list. I decided, as all Santa's do, to check it twice. I began going over my list of past Ham of the Month interviewees and what to my wandering eyes would appear? No sign of Johnny Fearon, W4WKP. Now my list only goes back to October of 1993, so I decided to call Johnny and ask him. He would know. Who would you count on for the correct answer? A list? Or Johnny? Johnny says that he was indeed interviewed prior to 1993. I still think that there is a lot of information about Johnny's past that we are all unaware of and he was quite willing to share that information with me. So I decided to proceed with the interview.

Johnny was supposed to be born in Nassau, but he was born three months premature in New York City. New York City??? Time to pick up the pace! Johnny's father was working in the insurance business, trying to steer the ones who didn't know what they were doing in the right direction. From age three months to three years Johnny lived in the Philippines, Manila, (where they make folders?) Cuba, Chicago and Pittsburgh. At the age of 3 years old Johnny's family moved to Atlanta where Johnny and his family first lived at the Georgian Terrace Hotel at the 1500 block of Peachtree Street.

Johnny's father got him a Hallicrafters HS-38 receiver and in June of 1952 was first licensed a novice as WN4WKP. At his first hamfest an op, W4OPS Wick Reed got about fifteen hams to go mobile so Johnny could work them all. Needless to say, the thrill kept him awake the following night. Johnny's dad got him a cap that would bear his callsign WN4WKP only to physically remove the "N" when Johnny upgraded to General....becoming W4WKP. Johnny attended a school for the blind, which was 22 miles round trip from his home. No, he didn't have to walk to school! Johnny graduated

from North Fulton High School as the schools first blind student in 1962. Johnny then attended Mercer University in Macon where he majored in "partying 101." He flunked out, but then enrolled at Atlanta Baptist College and returned to Mercer where he attained a major in Management and a minor in Manufacturing. He enrolled in Atlanta Law School to become an attorney but was soon sidetracked by amateur radio. Since ham radio made him no money he soon became disillusioned at had thoughts of getting out of it. But he met his wife to be Robin and she got her ticket and saved Johnny from abandoning ham radio.

Johnny soon started his own business called ZZG Electronics and ran his business out of his garage in Loganville. (In 1978, as WD4DKX, I bought a callbook from Johnny!) He ran his business from 1977 to 1979. Robin, licensed KA4LPT was very active back then working 2 meters about 18 hours a day and burned herself out. Johnny says he is now semi-retired.

Johnny joined GARS in 1974 and remained an active member until 1978. Things weren't as "rosy" back then as they are now. In 1985, Johnny rejoined GARS and has served not only as Activities Manager but was President of the club from 1992 through 1993, after Duane Hanson - KD4KCR and before Howie - W4NVF.

Johnny's antennas consist of the following:

1. A 6 element 20 meter Telrex.
2. A 5 element 15 meter Telrex.
3. A 3 element 40 meter Telrex.
4. A 5 element 10 meter Telrex.

**SKN 97'****(Straight Key Night)**

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

Well, the ARRL sponsored New Year's Eve event, Straight Key Night, was as much fun as ever and maybe even better. Band conditions provided a lot more opportunity and a lot more DX.

For those of you who may not be familiar with this event, the ARRL sponsored event is dedicated to using a straight key on CW and having a good time. A tradition has evolved that encourages the use of as much old radio equipment as possible. This is not a contest but the ARRL encourages participants to send in interesting stories of their contacts. Some of these are published later in QST. I have always thought that it was an effort by the ARRL to keep their members off the street on New Year's Eve.

In recent years, I have been working SKN with a 1960's vintage Galaxy V but one of my sons who is a **Licensed Amateur Radio Operator** is using it for SWL activity. I used my TS-530 which at least has some vacuum tubes in it. I do have a set of Drake Twins but they were not installed during SKN 97.

Since this is an ARRL sponsored event, I would have thought that there would have been some mention of it on the GARS weekly net or in the GARZETTE. Maybe I just missed it. Several times in recent years, I have made the effort to sponsor a GARS net on SKN. One year we even had a contest for the most unusual home-made key. GARS creativity really came out with keys made from Hot Wheels, skeleton keys, metal rulers, computer parts and even an erector set. I have just been stretched too thin in the last couple of years so that GARS activity has fallen by the wayside.

I always try to get into this event since it reminds me of the thrill of getting on the air with my Novice ticket. At least I don't have to work crystal control. Since ev-

eryone had crystals on different frequencies back in the old days, we would call CQ and then tune up and down the band with our receiver to see if anyone was returning our call. This was definitely not "appliance operator" activity.

GARS member and fellow VE, David Rife, AD2Q, and I had determined that we were going to work SKN 97 and try to contact each other. Unfortunately (or maybe fortunately) the band conditions were very good and propagation was very long. I was working on 40 meters and New England, Scandinavia, Southern Europe and South America were really coming in strong, but I couldn't hear David down near Stone Mountain. I did work a Spanish station and I'm not sure he knew that we were involved in SKN since he made a normal quick DX contact.

For all of you **Licensed Amateur Radio Operators** that have not passed your 5 wpm code test, let me encourage you to do so. You would then have privileges on the 80, 40, 15 and 10 meter bands. You would even have phone privileges on the 10 meter band. You would be surprised at just how slow 5 wpm really is. It is so slow, that you can actually copy down the dots and dashes and go back later and figure out what each character is. That is not what the IARU and FCC had in mind, but under the present testing regulations, you can do it that way. If you can memorize all of the questions and answers in the question pools in order to pass the written test, you can certainly memorize 26 characters of the alphabet and 3 special characters (period, comma and slash).

One thing about working SKN is that you really appreciate using an electronic keyer. The keyer forces you (and the station you are working hopefully) to send better code which makes it a whole lot easier to copy.

## February Birthdays Within GARS

By Jack Herndon, KS4LS

02	KF4HLK	Jeff Glasscock
02	KF4RLZ	Manuel Dominguez
04	KF4MZD	John E. Kemker III
04	WA4DSY	Dale Heatherington
05	K4HBI	Michael Swiderski
06	W9RR	George Sensibar
06	KF4ODV	Dennis Weaver
08	KD4OTB	James Plofehan
08	KF4MWJ	Sara Madden
09	WD4JEM	Eddie Foust
10	KF4PS	Darwin Christensen
10	KE4EIH	Bill Ahls
10	KF4JVF	Walter Burleson
11	W4WNK	William N. Kelly
11	WA4ZUW	Carlton McPherson
12	KE4TVB	John Swarner
12	KT4VV	Benny Mitchell
12	W4JLB	Larry Busbee
15	AK8E	James Flournoy
15	KF4DVL	Ben Blumenfeld
16	KD4CVR	Dale E. Goodman
16	KE4QLE	William (Bill) Monroe
22	KA4SFG	Don Ray
22	N2BSG	Ade Wirth
22	KE4YWF	Kathy Baker
24	KF4TQV	Frank Sauciunas
24	KF4FKV	Tom Ewing
26	KD4QPC	Chuck Robison
28	N4DQR	Richard Flanders

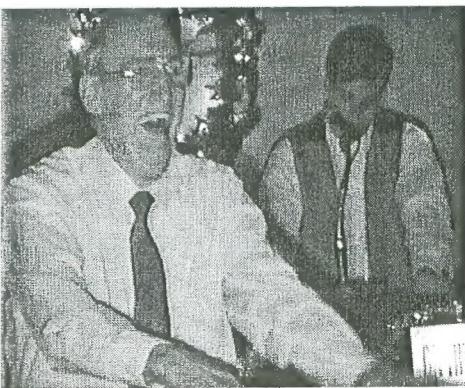
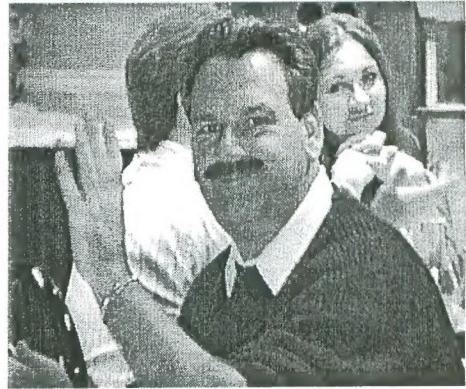
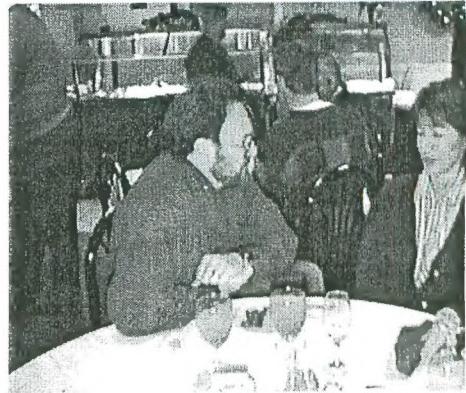
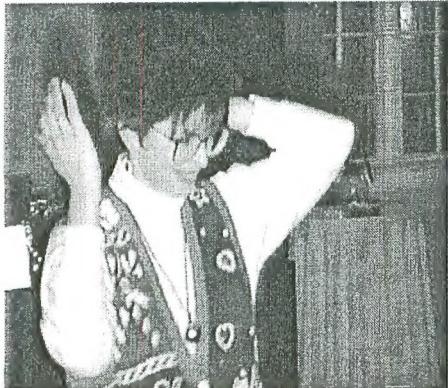
## From T to E, TNX GARS

by Jack Herndon, KS4LS/AE

Well, I can't believe that I have finally made it to Extra. When I was first licensed it was for a no code license and I really didn't have the desire to upgrade. Than I joined GARS and all that changed. The members of this club certainly encourage a person to upgrade if that person so desires and not only do they encourage they help. What I'm trying to say is that I owe my new license class to the many people in this club who have helped and encouraged me (the number of people are too numerous to list in this space, don't be modest, you know who you are.) So, thank you GARS!

## GARS Annual Holiday Party 1997

### Fun For All



# PO Box 88, Just like Russia, QSL? QSL?

By Mike Swiderski, K4HBI

W4G, Whiskey 4 Gulf, We're 4 GARS was a sequence many club members were probably babbling in their sleep a couple of months ago. And any one with a two meter radio probably knows the GARS mailing address by heart.

These items were broadcasted over the ether thousands of time - some in glee, some in desperation, some in tiredness, and some in frustration. What was all this about? The 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration of the GARS was marked with several events and many stations in operation at many locations. W4NVF (Howie for those that have been lost in space) acquired the call of W4G for the clubs special event operation and David, KA4KKF extended its use to cover the JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) operation.

The celebration covered four weekends of operation:

**September 27, 1997:** A HF and 2m/70cm station was set up at Briscoe Field in Lawrenceville in concert with bi-plane fly-in hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Association. Also Howie , W4NVF hosted an open-house station operation out of his own home on this date. Although some stations provided multiple contacts to W4G the results are minus "dups" or the multiple contacts.

Briscoe Field HF: Lots of Operators but the primary pileups and most time spent had to go to Sara KT4MQ and Susan (KF4PNW, KU4JV, or AF4FO, whichever callsign she was using that week). Total HF contacts were 129 with 108 on 40m and 21 on 20m. The VHF FM station was manned by many and contributed 60 contacts; 58 on 2m and 2 on 70 cm. This totals 189 contacts made from Briscoe Field and a PA type speaker provided by Pickett, AD4S provided the HF audio to many of the curious bystand-

ers.

W4NVF, Howie's home station: Howie and Randy, K4HS, were the primary operators that provided W4G confirmation to 48 stations. The breakdown is: W4NVF, 29 QSOs, 18 SSB & 11 CW and K4HS, 19 SSB The breakdown per band was 11 on 40m, 31 on 20m, and 6 on 17m.

In total the September 27<sup>th</sup> W4G operations netted 237 contacts (11 CW & 226 SSB) with 119 on 40m, 52 on 20m, 6 on 17m, 58 on 2m, and 2 on 70cm.

**October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 1997:** These two days were devoted to running the special event call sign, W4G, over the 147.075 repeater to allow those without HF stations or privileges a chance to get a contact and certificate. The W4G operators ran their time segments from their own stations over the two day period. The W4G operators of record in alphabetic order were: AF4FG, AF4FO, AJ4S, K1CFW, K4HBI, K4HS, KA4SFG, KD6CLO, KE4EIH, KF4HFN, KF4HLF, KF4HLH, KF4NOH, KM4Z, N1TOQ, W1WRX, WA4ZUW, WB4GKI, and WE5O. The Oct 4, results were 108 contacts total, which after removing duplicate contacts resulted in an even 100 contacts. Sunday, Oct. 5, 1997, was a bit on the sparse side with a total of 41 contacts that after dupe elimination resulted in 38 individual stations.

On Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> , Howie, W4NVF, opened his shack up again for W4G operation and he and Karl, N4JON accounted for 179 more SSB contacts, W4NVF with 66 and N4JON with 113. 121 QSOs were made on 40m and 58 on 20m.

On Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> , Karl, N4JON operated his shack as W4G and added 47

more SSB contacts on 15m.

**October 11, 1997:** This date was devoted to the Scouts out at the Gold Rush Camporee north of Athens, GA at the Sandy Creek Park.. Three HF and a 2m station were set up and thousands of scouts came through, operated, watched, questioned, played with the Code Practice Oscillators, and talked on the radios. W4G amassed another 107 SSB contacts at this event, with Susan, AF4FO, causing a pile up on 10m to the western US. The band break-down was 17 on 40m, 42 on 20m, 1 on 17m, 8 on 15m, 23 on 10m, and 16 on 2m.

**October 18, 1997:** This date was devoted to the Scouts also, however out at the Rolling Hills Baptist Church site, where JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) was worked. Interestingly enough at this event, logging was the lowest if not a non-existent priority. The scouts talked to other scouts around the US, and talked and talked. Only a few needed some coaching to get over being mic. shy, but on the whole, they had a blast talking on the HF and 2m stations. Some brave souls, all those who volunteered their equipment, required extra guardian angels, as the boys who will be boys liked to turn knobs to see what they would do. Watchful eyes and some delayed eyeball QSOs resulted in saving the gear and some QSLs from the OOs. Even with the confusion and fun, 40 contacts were still logged on paper; 13 on 40m, 15 on 20m, 10 on 2m, and 2 on ??m.

## W4G Overall

Although only a handful of W4G operators were individually listed, all the officers and a good portion of the club membership attended these functions and

**...QSL, QSL**

Continued from page 5

seemed to have a good time running the stations, eyeball QSOing, and explaining the facets of the hobby to the curious many. Maybe a sign with "NO, This NOT CB" may be appropriate. Since all the logs did not contain operator or logger information, I can not give a most contacts status, etc.

Where did W4G contact, **All Over The World!!!** Forty six of the fifty states were worked, missing Alaska, Hawaii, South Dakota, and the ham in Delaware. There were 279 contacts within GA and the remaining five states with the most contacts were CA with 33, NC and NY with 28, FL with 25, and OH with 21. Quite an impressive turnout of contacts including one from the Smithsonian Institute in DC.

W4G made contacts with 50 foreign stations in 16 countries. The most worked country, besides the USA was Canada with 20 QSOs. Other countries worked, in alphabetical order, were Belgium (2), Cuba (5), England (2), Germany (3), Italy (1), Luxembourg (1), Mexico (4), Nicaragua (1), Puerto Rico (4), Portugal (1), Spain (2), St. Thomas (1), Switzerland (1), Venezuela (1), and Yugoslavia (1).

Even with "Field Day" setups for equipment and antenna, the bands being somewhat uncooperative, the party atmosphere, the teaching and guest operators, **W4G was heard around the world** with a "contest" total of 748 contacts to 659 individual operators and only GOD knows how many scouts.

Respectively, K4HBI

W4G QSL Manager

ps. A special TNX to IKE, KE4GYM for the preparation of all the certificates that were used to confirm contact with those that QSLed.

## **Do's and Don'ts of the Repeaters**

Gathered from Various Internet Sources

- Reserve the words "break, "breaker", or "break-break" for EMERGENCIES ONLY!! To initiate a contract, simply indicate that you are on the frequency identifying and monitoring To join an ongoing QSO, just identify ahead of the beep.
- Identify legally: You must identify at the end of a transmission or series of transmissions and at least every 10 minutes during communications. It is good practice to always identify at the start as well.
- Wait for the beep between transmissions. This allows other hams to use the repeater (this is especially important for allowing quick access to the repeater during emergency communications).
- Keep transmissions short and thoughtful. It is unnecessary to give the callsign of the station(s) you are working and a real time waster if it is done every transmission. If you call a station and they don't answer you, it is not necessary to announce "nothing heard"....everyone listening to the repeater already knows that. The timer is on the machine for a reason, don't drop it to clear the timer and then go on talking!! Let others get their two cents worth in. Your transmissions are being heard by many listeners, including people with scanners. Try to give a good impression of our service.
- When the machine is really busy, use a simplex frequency if possible. If you can, complete your QSO on a direct frequency if there is no need to tie up the repeater.
- Use minimum power necessary to maintain communications. This minimizes the possibility of accessing distant repeaters on the same frequency. Be especially careful during inversions to keep your power down.
- Definition of minimum power: FM is enjoyable to listeners when your signal is at or near full quieting. The \_\_\_\_\_ repeater has an output power of about 60 watts. If you are not hearing it well, then guaranteed it won't hear you well. Handhelds should be run on high power until you establish you can acceptably lower your power. For mobiles, 5 watts and a mag mount will work successfully 95% of the time.
- Be polite on the air!! Don't break into a contact unless you have something to add to the conversation in progress. Interrupting and changing the subject is just impolite on the air as it is in person.
- Business communications are forbidden by the FCC using an autopatch. Nor should an autopatch be used to avoid a toll call. Do not use an autopatch where regular telephone service is available. Autopatch privileges that are abused may be rescinded.

# GARS SURVEY RESULTS

## by WT4XX

### Larry Osborne, VP

Some months ago, a sample survey was made by calling a representative sample of GARS members. Many thanks to those who faithfully executed this exercise. A BIG THANK YOU to KF4NBD, who compiled the results.

Active members make for a successful club. We have engaged in many varied activities in the past, but we are always looking for other things our members may be interested in doing. Here is what some people felt:

- 65% said they liked the idea of a once a week breakfast, and 65% said they favored a starting time of 7-8 AM
- 62% said they liked the opportunity to have dinner with the members before the meeting
- 46% said they would be interested in doing or learning more about doing the Tuesday night net - Where are you? Try alternate net control for practice!
- 15% said they would like to learn more about helping with the code practice net
- Have you contacted AJ1T?
- 70% said they would be interested in ARES/Skywarn - Have you joined?
- 64% said you would be interested in repeater maintenance - Where are you folks hiding? Contact Howie!
- 76% were interested in Special Event activities
- 78% were interested in a GARS hamfest or tailgate - sorry, but investigation told us this will not work
- 44% were interested in helping with the No-Code classes - Call KF4HFN.
- 26% would be interested in supporting

ham radio classes at their child's school

- 64% enjoy the picnic
- 58% enjoy the Holiday party
- 89% said they enjoy the activities that GARS is involved in.

As you can see, the interests of many have been met by the club with the ongoing activities during the past 3+ years. If you have not gotten involved in some of the varied things we have done, you are really missing out!

Another part of the survey involved activities we have not pursued - or not pursued for awhile - a kind of wish list. Some we have done in the past - some we have not. These topics may be the subject of a future meeting, but do not wait for that. If you have an interest in one of these areas, let it be known, and your fellow club members can come together and you can start having fun! Here is the list: building antennas; packet radio; amateur TV; kit building; fox hunts; and ham/hiking trips.

If you would like to see one of these topics as a program at a club meeting, tell an officer.....we do not have a crystal ball which magically tells us what you are interested in. Make an announcement at a meeting, or write an article for the GARZETTE, and invite all those who are interested to contact you.

A club the size of ours cannot please everyone all the time. Our likes and dislikes are too broad. We do want to have programs and activities that will cover a wide range of topics. BUT YOU NEED TO TELL US! YOU NEED TO BECOME ACTIVE!

## Repeater News!

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

Howie has reminded me that with the coming of the New Year we also get a new area code and will have to dial 10 numbers to place a call even within the 770 area code. Howie has done some programming on the repeater phone patch to accommodate the new area code. All the speed dials have been programmed to dial the area code and two new codes have been added to aid in dialing 770 and 404 phone numbers. To dial a number in the 770 area code use access code 7302 + 7 digits. To dial a number in the 404 area code use access code 7303 + 7 digits. You can use the existing patch number of 7301 but you must dial all 10 digits when using this access code.

Also a reminder that the 911 access code is 19119. GARS has adopted a use policy for 911 calls that says that you should only use the 911 phone patch in cases where you find the situation serious enough to stop and render assistance.

**GARS  
Electronic Mail  
List**



If you have an EMail address and have not yet registered it with the club and wish to do so, please send a message to **Jack Herndon, KS4LS** and request to be added to the list.

Send to: **ks4ls@ix.netcom.com**

**...The President's Pen**...Continued from page 1

HRO and Gwinnett Place Mall, and a couple of ARRL manuals. One of the ARRL manuals was donated by Georgia SM Sandy Donahue, W4RU who also spoke during the presentation of the **GARS** Ham Of The Year Award which was awarded to Kevin McClure, KF4HFN.

As always the selection of the HOY was not an easy one, **GARS** is blessed with a great group of people and many of those are active throughout the entire year and are considered for this award. Kevin had a great year participating in many of the club events during the past year including that rainy day where we went to Snellville to work the parade only to have it cancelled, but that didn't stop Kevin. Once the parade was cancelled, he and several others went to Norcross to assist Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW and his team that were supporting a walkathon for a church in our area. Kevin was an instrumental part of the **GARS** education effort during 1997 helping teach two of the technician classes at Central Gwinnett Community School. He was also a key member of the Field Day team providing the power and grounding systems for the event.

One of the things that Kevin was recognized for with this award that I think typifies his effort during the year was the effort to get one of the young hams that came through his class a radio and get him on the air. After Kevin talked to the young man and found out that he had been cutting lawns and saving his money for a radio, Kevin went on the air and found someone with a HT for sale and negotiated a deal so that the young ham could afford the radio. Then Kevin went over picked up the radio, delivered it and made sure that it was programmed and working and that the young man was able to get on the air with the radio. Now that certainly portrays the qualities that we want to recognize with this yearly award. One last think I'd to comment on is that Kevin is a one of the **GARS** ambassadors on the air. When you hear Kevin on the repeater, he is always talking up amateur radio and our club and is probably one of the most pleasant people you will run into on the amateur radio frequencies. It's people like Kevin that come out and support **GARS**.

that really makes my job as President a pleasant and rewarding one. Congratulations to Kevin on this well deserved award and I look forward to working with him in the coming year.

A club the size of ours and as active as ours takes a lot of effort to get the activities and ongoing club operations organized and staffed. A good deal of this activity is behind the scenes and is not a high visibility effort that gets a good deal of recognition. This became apparent when I started printing the Special Service Awards that we as a club hand out each year to those that participated on the club activities during the past year. There were over 90 certificates printed and a good number of those were handed out at the Christmas party. If you weren't able to attend we'll have them at the January meeting and pass out the remainder then. I want to once again extend my thanks to all those folks that turned out for our activities last year and look forward to working with each of you again in 1998 on our new activities. If you didn't get involved in a **GARS** activity in 1997 make a resolution to do so this year. We'll have many opportunities to get involved in activities and committees so when I or anyone stands up and asks for help please don't be shy and step forward.

We have a big need immediately for someone to take on and that is the Tuesday night CW Net Manager. Don Button, AJ1T has been doing a great job of organizing the net controls for our weekly CW practice for over a year and has stepped down prior to getting involved with a new position. We need someone to take over Don's slot and organize the schedule of our CW net operators. You don't in fact even have to be one of those sending the weekly practice code but have to be willing to make sure that a schedule of operators and backups is in place. If you interested, please give me a call so we can fill this slot. **GARS** has always been proud of this weekly code practice net and I'd hate to see it go away due to no one stepping forward to coordinate it.

Our first effort at what we are calling The **GARS** Techfest will take place on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. We certainly hope that this becomes an annual winter event and that we can build on it to bigger and better events. The Techfest is the brainchild of Kevin Berry, KF4RMA and he's been busy getting volunteers to staff the different booths we'll have

open and available. John Sokol, KE4KPV our PR Chairman has been working Kevin to set up a chili cook off and luncheon as part of the event. I hope we can count on most if not all of our members to come out and take part. If you've need any information or would like to help out give Kevin or myself a call.

The first round of nominations for the February election of officers will be taken at the January meeting. So far we have candidates for President (myself), Vice President (John Sokol, KE4KPV and Marty Fowler, KE4MLH), Treasurer (Randy Drescher, K4HS), and Activities Manager (Kevin McClure, KF4HFN). As of this writing we don't have anyone that has announced their intention to run for Secretary. If you're interested in any of these positions, I encourage you to have your name placed in nomination at the January meeting and you've got any questions please give me a call or call the current office holder and they'll be glad to explain their duties to you.

Well I think I've consumed enough of your time again this month so I'll close once again after I take the time to remind you of our weekly **GARS** Family Breakfast at Steak N' Shake in Lawrenceville. We get together starting around 8:00 AM and you'll usually find folks there until 9:30 or 10:00, come on out and join us. I hope to see you at the January meeting when our program will be on lost cost DF'ing.

\*\*\*

**AD4PZ**

JOE

**GWINNETT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

Make sure to get your own **GARS** Badge. To order, call or email Susan Swiderski, AF4FO

**...On the Air**

Continued from page 2

5. A TH7 beam on a 60 foot tower and a Cushcraft 144/220/440 beam on a 180 foot tower. Somewhere in there is a 110 foot tower for the other beams. What an antenna system!!!

In 1990, Johnny's station took a lightning hit that knocked out about 5 grand worth of his equipment, including his rotor system that lets Johnny know by synthesized voice the direction his beams are pointed. KT4NK is currently resolving this problem and Johnny should soon be able to work all that good DX on HF that I'm working now !!

Johnny's radios consist of a 10 year old TS-940 (not for sale, he added), an Alpha 78 linear, a Kenwood TM641 in his car and one in his home. He also has a spare Kenwood 221. Robin has a Radio Shack HTX-212 mobile rig and a Yaesu 470. Johnny's TS-940 is also equipped with a voice synthesizer that tells him what frequency he is on. Johnny says that when they first hooked it up they had a switch in the wrong position and the thing started speaking Japanese !!! He said he couldn't figure out what frequency he was on !!

Here's a scoop. Johnny got a citation from the FCC once for operating a CB that was off frequency. He got caught. Johnny's other hobbies are surfing the internet, listening to gospel and vintage country music, politics, all current events and talk radio (when it's worth listening to, which he says is a rarity in Atlanta). Johnny is now looking for a way to learn Windows and Real Audio.

Johnny is a member of First Baptist Church of Loganville and is always eager to serve the Lord.

Johnny once sold a receiver to country singer Ronnie Milsap - WB4KCG and was able to attend one of his concerts backstage. Johnny also remembers a 14 year old kid in Smyrna licensed KN4ZHY named Emory Gordy, who is now W4WRO, a successful record producer in Nashville and husband to country

music's Female Artist of the Year, Patty Lovelace - KD4WUJ. Johnny's personal goal for 1998 is to obtain his Extra license.

Johnny says that the major difference in the club of now and the club of past years is participation and he says our last couple of Field Days went well beyond his expectations. He says our willingness to help the newcomer to the hobby makes us by far the best club in the Atlanta area. He said that the club growth from around 60 members in 1993 to around 300 this year speaks for itself. Johnny is also a member of the Alford, North Fulton, Lanierland and Atlanta Radio Club, where he is also an honorary lifetime member.

Johnny's first radio was a loaner. It was a home-brew CW crystal controlled rig for 3.749 on 80 meters. It ran about 50 watts and he remembers his first contact late one night with WN9QNH. I asked Johnny how difficult it was to copy CW when he had no idea what the letter even looked like. He said it was easier than having to see it and hear it. He said all he has to do is hear it!! We have to see it and hear it at the same time. Johnny feels the club will continue to grow and places emphasis

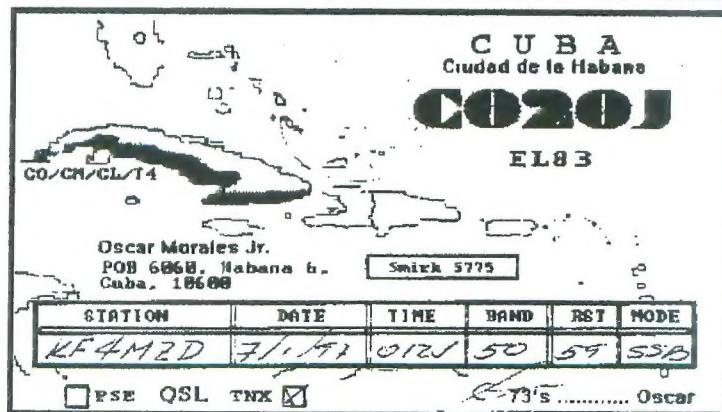
on two key areas...upgrading and learning more about "wires rather than watts". Education on the use and building of wire antennas is a key area we need to focus on.

In closing, Johnny told me two interesting stories. He said in 1952, he attended his first field day and his voice was so high, all the stations thought he was a YL and he experienced many pile ups !! He also said on one occasion he acquired an old Collins KWM-2 that was not working and in attempting to fix it got a screwdriver across some components he shouldn't have. He spent quite a while after that trying to get the feeling back in his hands and arms!!!

I surely hope you've all enjoyed "On the Air" with Johnny. Johnny is such an inspiration to have in our club. I consider him the model amateur radio operator. He loves to help those that want help in ham radio and he's certainly helped me in the past. He's always ready and eager to assist anyone, whether you are an OM or brand new to the hobby. I look forward to another interview next month. Till then, 73 and maybe I'll catch you on the HF bands in the upcoming months.

\*\*\*

**6 Meter contact with Cuba, a feather in John's Cap  
Considering the current sun spot cycle, this would  
be a great contact in anyone's cap. Way to go John!**



## Contest Corner by John Sokol, K9AOK

Below are the contests I am aware of that are scheduled through the end of February 1998. I will not publish all of the rules for the different contests, but if one in particular interests you, contact me and I will get a copy of the contest rules to you. Bands of operation are specified in each contest's rules, and not all contests are for General, Advanced or Extra classes .. so Techs and Novices, join in on the fun!

<u>February</u>	<u>Time (UTC)</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Contest</u>
07-08	0000-2400	SSB/CW	Vermont QSO Party
07-08	0000-2400	SSB/CW	New Hampshire QSO Party
07-08	0000-2400	SSB/CW	Maine QSO Party
07-08	2 periods	SSB/CW	Delaware QSO Party
07	1600-1900	CW	AGCW Straight Key
07-08	1700-0500	Digital	NorthWest QRP Club Digital
08	0000-0359	SSB	North America 'Sprint'
08-09	0000-0400	SSB/CW	Classic Radio Exchange
09-13	1300-0100	SSB/CW	School Club Roundup
14-15	0000-2400	RTTY	World-Wide RTTY WPX Contest
14	0100-0700	CW/SSB	Utah 160Meter Challenge
14-15	1200-1200	CW/SSB	PACC
14	1230-1430	CW	Asia-Pacific Sprint
14-16	1400-0200	SSB	YLRL YL-OM Contest
14-16	1400-0600	CW	QCWA QSO Party
14-15	2100-0100	CW	RSGB 1.8MHz Contest
15	0000-0359	CW	North America 'Sprint'
21-22	0000-2400	CW	ARRL DX Contest
21-22	0000-2400	SSB	YL-ISSB QSO Party
22	2 periods	CW	HSC Contest
27-01	2200-1600	SSB	CQ W W 160 Meter Contest
28-01	2 periods	SSB/CW	North Carolina QSO Party
28-01	0600-1800	SSB	REF
28-01	1300-1300	CW	UBA
28-02	1400-0200	CW	YLRL YL-OM Contest
28-01	1500-0900	CW	RSGB 7MHz Contest
28-01	1700-0500	SSB/CW	FYBO Winter QRP Field Day
28-01	2200-0400	CW/SSB	Co. QRP Club Winter QSO Party

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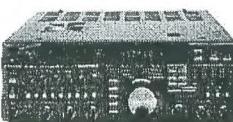
## 12 Store Buying Power!



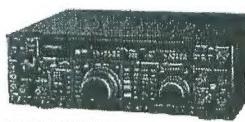
**FT-840**  
 • 100W • 12V DC • DDS  
 • Gen. Cov. Rx, 100 mem.  
 • Optional Ext. Anto. • Tuners Available  
 Call Now For Our Low Pricing!



Call For Autumn Specials!  
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**FT-736R**  
 The Ultimate Oscar Machine  
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 25W, Built-in Power Supply



**FT-1000MP HF Transceiver**  
 • Enhanced Digital Signal Processing  
 • Dual RX  
 • Collins SSB filter built-in  
 • 100W Power supply built-in  
 Call Now For Low Pricing!



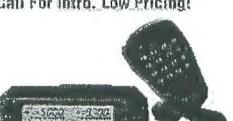
**VX-1R**  
 2M/440 Sub-Mini HT  
 • 250 Memory Channels  
 • 5W output  
 • Receives 70-999MHz  
 plus AM (Call Band Blocked)  
 • Lithium Ion Battery  
 Call Now For Your Low Price!



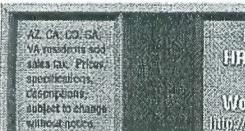
**FT-900CAT**  
 • Compact IF Trans., 100W, Collins Filter  
 • Optional built-in auto tuner  
 • Removable front panel, optional kit rec.  
 • OSC, 100 Mem., Gen Cov. Rx,  
 CW/Glow display  
 Call Now For Low Price!



**FT-50RD**  
 2M/440mhz Compact HT  
 • DMR, Decode, Paging built-in  
 • Alpha numeric display  
 • Wide Band receive  
 • Battery Saver  
 • 112 Memories  
 • MIL-Spec  
 • Hi-Speed scanning  
 Call For Your Low Pricing!



**FT-8100R 2M/440 Mobile**  
 • Ultra Compact • 50W/5W 2M/440  
 • 110 memories • Wide Band RX  
 • Backlit • Removable front panel w/kit, YSK-8100  
 Call Now For Special Pricing



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## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

## First Tuesday

## Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd.,  
 Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by  
 meeting. Talk In 145.410(-)

## First Tuesday

## Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta.  
 Meeting begins at 7:30pm. Talk In 146.88(-)

## First Wednesday

## HamWatch

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta,  
 Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

## First Thursday

## N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off of Memorial Dr. toward  
 Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In -  
 147.225(+)

## Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union, 4900 Ashford  
 Dunwoody Road, 1 Mile North of Perimeter Mall. Meeting  
 is at 7:30PM Talk In -146.820(-)

## Second Wednesday

## North Fulton Radio League

Alpharetta Diner Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road,  
 Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In -  
 145.47(-)

## Second Thursday

## Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting  
 at 7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday  
 East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at  
 10:00AM. Talk In - 145.410(-)

## 3rd THURSDAY

## Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins  
 at 7:30 in the fellowship hall. Talk In-147.075(+)



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**THE  
GARZETTE**  
JANUARY 1998

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048



**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on January 15 at 7:30 P.M.**

PAGE 12

**THE GARZETTE**

**GARS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS**

**Metro Atlanta Test Sessions**

**GARS** Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a Service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00pm (except Jul&Sep.)  
Terry Jones, K4FB 770-967-6364  
Johnson High School WCARS VEC  
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainesville

1st Saturday - 9:00AM  
George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496  
N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Rd,  
Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC  
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56  
Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday- 2:30PM - ARRL VEC  
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142  
Episcopal Church of the Atonement  
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville,  
GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM  
**GARS W5YI-VEC**  
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks  
Trickum Rd, Lilburn  
Headphones!

**Metro Area Nets And Roundtables**

Mon	50.135	8:30PM	Regional 6 Meter SSB Net
Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	145.41	11:30AM	Boy Scout Youth Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Thu	146.88-	8:30PM	Kennehoochee ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	427.25ATV	9:00PM	Amateur Television, ATV
	146.655 Voice		
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	145.47-	8:00PM	NFARL Youth Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.